

09/581602

ABSTRACT

There are provided an information reproducing apparatus and an information recording apparatus capable of further promoting a recording density by using a reproduction/recording system using near-field light and a recording medium used as well as an information reproducing method and an information recording method for information reproduction or recording utilizing near-field light. In the case in which a sample 5 is formed with an edge 7 in a liner shape and the sample 5 is irradiated with near-field light, strong scattered light is provided when the edge 7 is orthogonal to a direction of polarization and the scattered light stays to be inconsiderable when the edge 7 is disposed in parallel with the direction of polarization. In this way, an intensity of the scattered light differs by a directional relationship between a direction of forming the edge 7 and the direction of polarization of the near-field light and therefore, when the effect is utilized, high density formation of a reproducing/recording apparatus can be carried out.

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